



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

June 30, 2025.

### Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced Ms. Jacqueline Schendel Area Manger of the North AL BBB. Ms. Schendel has also been a familiar face as she helped in managing the BBB's annual shred-a-thon that our Club has supported with its members on-hand for many years.



Lion Randy Kraft, in his typically humorous fashion, introduces Ms. Jacqueline Schendel.

Jacqueline Schendel, representing the North Alabama Better Business Bureau (BBB), spoke. Jacqueline is the BBB lead for both Cullman and Morgan Counties. She opened by thanking the Club for its continuing support of the annual Shred-A- Thon. The BBB was originally founded over a hundred years ago by the president of Coca Cola, Samuel Dobbs, to combat false advertising. Over the intervening century it has become the primary source of evaluation for business reviews and a channel for consumer concerns and complaints. Last year 220 million inquiries were processed online concerning 5.5 million businesses at the BBB website ([www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)). The BBB also now tracks

charities with 750 thousand inquiries. The BBB uses a self-explanatory rating system of A+ to F for its ratings.

Jacqueline then focused on the ubiquitous scams which the consumer now faces, primarily online. Currently fraudsters are impersonating DMVs for fictitious outstanding tickets and tolls. Another scam in vogue is called "Pig Butchering," (often these are romance-type scams) wherein the scammer gradually builds up the trust to the mark until a large sum of dollars is involved. Jacqeline urged checking any email or text directed business by separate means to ensure the contact is legitimate. Legitimate government sources will never require you to send funds via gift card.

She closed with several humorous frauds including one where a hard of hearing woman, while being defrauded, was requested to use Apple Pay and confused the request with Applebee's, purchasing a thousand dollars of restaurant gift cards. She urged all to contact the BBB if they had any questions regarding local merchants or to report suspected fraud.

### Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold is continuing his cancer battle at home. Lion Javon Daniel remains at home dealing his heart condition. Lion Mike Ponder is resting at home with his medical issues. Long-time member of our Club, Lion Gordon Boyd passed away under hospice care this week; in accordance with his pre-arrange request, he was directly cremated, and a public funeral was not planned. Continue prayers for these Lions and Lion Boyd's family.



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R.I.P. Lion Gordon Boyd



In one of his final acts as Club President, Lion Chris Brooks (I) presents Club appreciation cup to Ms. Jacqueline Schendel, along with Lion Randy Kraft.

New Lion Joe Sivilli, sponsored by Lion Randy Kraft, was welcome into the Club tonight. Lion Joe recently moved to the Cullman area to be with his grandchildren. Lion Joe retired from the Navy Submarine Force and was stationed in Georgia, South Carolina, and Maryland.



New Lion Joe Sivilli

### Upcoming Programs and Events

July 7: Our speaker will be Lion Champ Crocker, Cullman County District Attorney.



Lion Champ Crocker, Cullman County District Attorney

July 13: Lions International Convention in Orlando.

### **Tale Twister Input**

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).